Atty. Dkt. No. 051841-0113

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Syogo HAYASHI et al.

Title: SUPPORT APPARATUS FOR STEERING COLUMN

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: DEC 1 2 2003

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of the document A1 is described in the present specification.

Document A2 discloses a support structure for a steering column. The support structure includes a column bracket which is in contact with the outer peripheral surface of a column pipe. The column bracket is U-shaped in cross-section and formed at its opposite end sections with flanges which are to be fixed to a vehicle body. A screw is provided to be passed through the column pipe and screwed in the column pipe so that the column bracket is pressed onto the column pipe. The column bracket is formed with a groove or cutout which connects a through-hole (for the screw) and the front end edge of the column bracket. The through-hole has a width smaller than the minor diameter of a thread section of the screw.

Document A3 discloses a steering system for a vehicle. The steering system includes a steering column pipe disposed to support a steering shaft. A stay bracket is connected to the steering column pipe and supported to a vehicle body-side section which is small in deformation when a front collision of the vehicle occurs. The steering column pipe is connected to a vehicle body-side member in order to increase an installation rigidity of the steering column pipe. Additionally, a releasing mechanism is provided between the vehicle body-side member and the steering column pipe in order to separate the steering column

pipe from the vehicle body-side member when the front collision of the vehicle occurs.

Document A4 discloses a steering column installation structure. The steering column installation structure includes a cross-member disposed at the front section of a vehicle and located lateral and horizontal relative to a vehicle body- A steering column is installed to the cross-member in such a manner as to cross the cross-member in plan. A column bracket is fixed to the cross-member in such a manner as to cross the cross-member in plan. The column bracket is trapezoidal in cross-section. The steering column is fixed to the column bracket through a column installation bracket which is U-shaped in cross-section.

Document A5 discloses a steering column installation structure. The steering column installation structure includes a cross-member disposed at the front section of a vehicle and located lateral and horizontal relative to a vehicle body. A steering column is installed to the cross-member in such a manner as to cross the cross-member in plan. A column bracket is fixed to the cross-member in such a manner as to cross the cross-member in plan. The column bracket is trapezoidal in cross-section. A column installation bracket is provided to have a cylindrical section to which a flange is perpendicularly connected. The column installation bracket is fixed to the upper surface of the column bracket. The steering column is disposed inside the cylindrical section so as to extend through the cylindrical section, and fixed in this state.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). An English language abstract is provided for document A1.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date DEC 1 2 2003

By _____

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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Date Submitted: DEC 1 2 2003

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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Complete if Known	
Application Number	Unassigned
Filing Date	DEC 1 2 2003
First Named Inventor	Syogo HAYASHI
Group Art Unit	Unassigned
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	051841-0113

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	U.S. Patent Document Number	U.S. Patent Document Kind Code[2] (*if known*)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Office[3]	Number[4]	Kind Code[5] (*if known*)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
	A1	JP	11-115770	A	MITSUBISHI MOTORS CORP.	04-27-1999		Abstract
	A2	JP	58-130867	U		09-03-1983		
	A3	JP	61-50073	U		04-04-1986		
	A4	JP	62-76767	U		05-16-1987		
	A5	JP	62-76768	U		05-16-1987		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[6]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[1] Unique citation designation number. [2]See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. [3]Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4]For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5]Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. [6]Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.